

Surface Roughening

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 609



DEFINITION

Surface Roughening is roughening the soil surface by ridging or clod forming tillage.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of the practice is to reduce wind erosion on cultivated land during periods of high probability for receiving erosive winds.

Surface roughening is a temporary, yet very effective practice under the proper conditions. When sufficient amounts of clay are present in the soil and moisture conditions are favorable, clods and/or ridges

can be very effective in controlling wind erosion.

Surface roughening is generally used when wind erosion is a major hazard and insufficient amounts of crop residue are available to prevent the soil from blowing. This practice is often referred to as “emergency tillage.”

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.